

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



SENT BY E-MAIL

February 16, 2017

Mr. David Kraska  
Law Department  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
dtk5@pge.com

Mr. Scott Castro  
Senior Attorney  
NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC  
scott.castro@nexteraenergy.com

**SUBJECT:** Completeness review of the NextEra Energy Transmission West, LLC and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the Applicants) Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project (A.17-01-023)

Dear Mr. Kraska and Mr. Castro:

The California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC's) Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA section has completed a preliminary review of the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project (Proposed Project) PEA. The PEA was filed on January 25, 2017. The CPUC's Information and Criteria List and PEA Checklist<sup>1</sup> were used as basic guides for determining PEA adequacy.

Given the outstanding list of documentation and project information required for PEA completeness, and the overly broad confidentiality declarations covering GIS data and pertinent PEA information that CEQA requires be publicly accessible, we are unable to deem the PEA complete at this time. A list of deficiency items is attached to this letter (Attachment 1). After addressing these deficiencies, you are required to recompile and resubmit the PEA in full, as further instructed below.

Please carefully consider the Commission's recent discussion on confidentiality declarations from Decision 16-08-024. This is the guidance that we will be following in considering whether to deem the PEA complete. Please see the attached letter (Attachment 2) as a recent example of guidance provided by our CPUC legal staff to Sempra Utilities regarding unsupported confidentiality designations for a different project. If the Applicants believe that any part of a document is confidential, provide a redacted version of the document that can be made public. If confidentiality designations are misapplied in your resubmitted PEA, we may require that the PEA be submitted again, in full, to correctly identify and include the information.

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<sup>1</sup>The CPUC's Information and Criteria List and PEA Checklist are available here: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/ceqa/>.

The requested submittals should be provided as appendices to the PEA and referenced within the PEA, or must otherwise be included within the PEA when resubmitted. If a specific report or document is not yet ready for submittal, provide an appendix as a placeholder in the updated PEA that includes an explanation for the delay and lists a date (month and year) when the completed document is expected to be submitted. If these instructions are closely followed, it will allow us to timely process your application. Upon receipt of the updated and recompiled PEA, we will perform a second review to assess PEA adequacy and issue a determination. Questions should be directed to me at (415) 703-2820 or robert.peterson@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rob Peterson  
Energy Division, Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA

cc:

Tracy Davis, Attorney, NEET West  
Andy Flajole, Environmental Licensing Lead, NEET West  
Tom Johnson, Principal Land Planner, PG&E  
Martin Nakahara, Docket Office, CPUC  
Cynthia Walker, Deputy Director, Energy Division, CPUC  
Molly Sterkel, Program Manager, Infrastructure Planning and Permitting, CPUC  
Lonn Maier, Supervisor, Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA, CPUC  
Jack Mulligan, Attorney, CPUC

Attachments

## **Attachment 1**

### *Deficiency Items List No. 1: Completeness review of the NEET West and PG&E Proponent's Environmental Assessment for the proposed Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project*

- 1.0 Provide all of the GIS data identified in the PEA (e.g., pp. 1-8, 1-9, 1-12, 1-13, 1-15, 1-27, and all other pages). In addition, explain with specificity why each of the layers submitted must remain confidential. GIS is a format; a way of presenting information. If GIS layers are to be kept confidential, it must be because something specific about the underlying information warrants confidentiality, not because the information is presented in a GIS format. Refer to attached letter (Attachment 2).
- 2.0 Provide all of the background information identified on PEA page 1-5.
- 3.0 Provide the list of properties requiring acquisition (PEA p. 1-11). Provide the list of properties that will require new easements for the proposed powerline (PEA p. 2-25).
- 4.0 Provide the Air Quality calculations in a fully unlocked Excel format and provide the CalEEMod report, if separate, in a fully unlocked Excel format (PEA pp. 1-24, 3.3-1, 3.3-6, 3.3-14, and others). PDF versions of these calculations must be included as an appendix to the updated PEA.
- 5.0 Provide a full copy of the wetland delineation and associated documentation (PEA p. 1-25). It cannot be marked confidential.
- 6.0 Provide a full copy of the special status species surveys (PEA p. 1-25). They cannot be marked confidential.
- 7.0 Provide full copies of each technical biological report referenced in PEA Section 3.4.
- 8.0 Provide full copies of the cultural resources reports and records search and paleontological reports (PEA p. 1-26 and Section 3.5). These documents cannot be marked confidential pursuant to Section 583. They may be marked confidential, but they are confidential under other laws and will be treated as such by the CPUC and its consultants.
- 9.0 Provide full copies of the Environmental Data Resources Report, Hazardous Substance Control and Emergency Response Plan (draft copy may be acceptable), Health and Safety Plan (draft copy may be acceptable), Worker Environmental Awareness Program (draft copy may be acceptable)(PEA p. 1-26).
- 10.0 Provide full copies of all the noise reports and surveys cited in Section 3.12.
- 11.0 Provide Appendix A in a fully unlocked Excel file format.
- 12.0 Provide full copies of all other reports identified in the PEA as to be submitted at a later date.
- 13.0 Provide the original figure files for all figures included in the PEA.
- 14.0 Update all PEA sections that mention the purpose, need, and project objectives as requested by CPUC staff and management at the meeting held with NEET West staff on 1/12/17. Ms. Patrice Agostino Martin notified CPUC staff and management by email on 1/30/17 that an Estrella Distribution Need Analysis would be provided on 2/24/17. This analysis must be included as an appendix to the PEA. The results of the analysis must be reflected in the project objectives and in

the purposes and need described in the PEA. The update must clearly explain why the proposed substation must be sited within the 2.2-mile radius provided to NEET West in a data response from the CAISO. The 2.2-mile radius diagram must be included as a figure in the updated PEA. Please describe, with specificity, the PG&E distribution needs in that area that are being addressed by the project. Also, please state whether addressing PG&E distribution needs is a project objective, and if not, explain why within the updated PEA.

- 15.0 Identify within the updated PEA a timeframe for installation of the distribution components within the proposed substation, e.g., the 70/12-kV, 70/21-kV, and/or other distribution transformers (PEA p. 2-4). Provide the estimated year of installation in the PEA.
- 16.0 Identify within the updated PEA a timeframe within which Estrella Substation could be fully built out (PEA p. 2-4). Provide the estimated year of full buildout in the PEA.
- 17.0 Identify on a map of suitable scale in the updated PEA all locations where distribution lines would be relocated and underbuilt on the proposed new or reconductored 70-kV lines (PEA pp. 2-6, 2-23). In addition, provide GIS data for the distribution lines to be relocated.
- 18.0 Indicate within the updated PEA how many miles of new or reconductored distribution lines are expected to be constructed that would be connected to the ultimate, full buildout of Estrella Substation (PEA pp. 1-2, 2-4).
- 19.0 For the distribution lines described in Deficiency Item 18, provide the expected line alignments and voltages in the update PEA. Provide GIS data for this distribution line work and include a map of suitable scale in the PEA that shows the work.
- 20.0 Update figures 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, and 2-9 to show the ultimate, full substation buildout (PEA p. 2-4), and update associated PEA text as appropriate. “Specifically, Estrella Substation will include room for future 230 kV transmission lines, a second 230/70 kV transformer, three future 70/21 kV distribution transformers and associated breakers and switches, and associated transmission facilities” (PEA p. 2-4).
- 21.0 Update figures 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, and 2-9 with utility ownership details. PG&E would own and operate the components shown in Figure 2-8, for example. Update associated PEA text as appropriate.
- 22.0 Provide the alignment of any fiber optic lines or telecommunications lines that would be required for operation of the fully built-out substation in addition to those that would be collocated on the proposed 70-kV lines or reconductored 70-kV segments or in underground or other locations already described in the PEA (pp. 2-12, 2-13, 2-24, and 2-39). Update associated PEA text as appropriate.